

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ronnie Carter on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter is one such estimable person who has aptly served the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) for thirty-one years and will retire in June of 2009; and

WHEREAS, he is the third Executive Director in the association's history, preceded by Gill Gideon, who held the position from 1972 to 1986, and the association's first director, Mr. A.F. Bridges, who served as Executive Director from 1946 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter joined TSSAA in 1978 as an Assistant Executive Director and, as a result of his unwavering dedication, was promoted to the position of Executive Director in 1986, a post he has continued to fill with probity since that day; and

WHEREAS, he is the fifth-longest tenured active Executive Director in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), a federation which has seen approximately 180 executive directors at the other forty-nine state high school associations since Mr. Carter was hired in 1979; and

WHEREAS, no more than two other NFHS member state associations have had fewer than four executive directors since their associations were formed; and

WHEREAS, these two NFHS members include the Connecticut association, which hired its first director in 1969 and is currently on its second, and the Rhode Island association, which hired its first director in 1968 and is currently on its third; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter has devoted forty years of his career to secondary education and athletics; and

WHEREAS, even before his nearly unprecedented tenure with the TSSAA, Mr. Carter was influential in secondary education and athletics as a teacher, a coach, an official, and an administrator, teaching mathematics and coaching football, basketball, wrestling, and track for eleven years at the secondary school level in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter has been highly involved with the NFHS since he began working at TSSAA, lending his support as a member of the National Federation of Football Rules Committee for twenty-five years, as Chairman of the Football Research Subcommittee of the Football Rules Committee for eight years, as a member of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee for twelve years, as Chairman of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee for eight years, and as a member of the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter is greatly respected among his colleagues and is viewed as a leader in his community; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to serve as a member of the NFHS Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002, and he served as President of the NFHS during the 2001-2002 term; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter is grateful for the companionship of his wife of thirty-nine years, Caroline Carter, who is a retired teacher; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud father of Jim and Heather Carter and Amy and Keith Whitfield and is deeply admired by his grandchildren, Cole and Rylee Carter and Mary Caroline and Drew Whitfield; and

WHEREAS, throughout a career which led him to work in nearly every facet of secondary education, Ronnie Carter has exemplified the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean, motivating others as a teacher, coach, administrator, and father and winning the utmost respect from his peers and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we extend to Ronnie Carter our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.